

Message Text

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41

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 ITC-01

TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 FEAE-00 OMB-01 IO-13

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R 081609Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6331

INFO USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION DEL GENEVA

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 5291

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, SP

SUBJECT: GSP: FORMER SPANISH FINANCE MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

REF: STATE 165625 (NOTAL)

1. ON JULY 8, EMBOFF DISCUSSED CURRENT GOS ATTITUDE TOWARD GSP WITH MFA DIRECTOR GENERAL OF INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AFFAIRS BASSOLS. BASSOLS SAID THAT MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND OF COMMERCE STILL CONSIDER ELIGIBILITY OF SPAIN FOR GSP AS CLOSED ISSUE REGARDLESS OF ATTENTION GIVEN TO SUBJECT BY FORMER FINANCE MINISTER VILLAR MOR IN WASHINGTON. BASSOLS SAID IT WAS FOOLISH AND INAPPROPRIATE FOR VILLAR MIR TO RAISE MATTER IN WASHINGTON WHEN HE DID NOT UNDERSTAND DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED FOR GOS TO MEET REQUIREMENTS OF THE U.S. TRADE ACT. IT WAS EVEN MORE INAPPROPRIATE BASSOLS SAID, FOR VILLAR MIR TO INFORM THE PRESS UPON HIS RETURN FROM WASHINGTON THAT THE QUESTION OF SPANISH GSP ELIGIBILITY WOULD BE EASILY RESOLVED. NOW THAT GOS IS INVOLVED IN
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DISCUSSIONS WITH THE EEC THAT WILL INVOLVE SOME ADDITIONAL

PREFERENCES TO THE COMMON MARKET ON INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTS,
BASSOLS ADDED, IT WOULD BE RIDICULOUS FOR SPAIN TO PURSUE
GSP ELIGIBILITY WITH THE U.S. SPANISH INTEREST NOW IS IN
MTN IN GENEVA AND PARTICULARLY IN TROPICAL PRODUCTS NEGOTI-
ATIONS AT THIS TIME.

2. BASSOLS SAID NOW THAT VILLAR MIR HAS LEFT THE CABINET,
THE WHOLE QUESTION OF SPANISH GSP ELIGIBILITY SHOULD BE
ALLOWED TO DIE QUIETLY. HE IS CERTAIN THAT NEW MINISTERS
OF COMMERCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS ARE IN ACCORD WITH THIS
VIEW.

3. EMBASSY DOES NOT INTEND TO RAISE THE MATTER AGAIN WITH
GOS AND EXPECTS GSP IS A DEAD ISSUE.
STABLER

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